

**WOODLAWN RESEARCH PROJECT:  
GEORGE W. HICKEY MAUSOLEUM**



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## THE MAUSOLEUM

The George W. Hickey mausoleum is located in Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, New York City. It's located off of Pine Avenue, on plot number 15328 (image 1), about a five-minute walk east from the Jerome Avenue entrance. There are four people interred within the Hickey Mausoleum. The interred include:

- Mary Ann Hickey (July 2, 1857 - September 21, 1922)
- George Washington Hickey (October 25, 1862 - 5 October 6, 1953)
- Margaret Creighton (June 13, 1875 - March 17, 1953)
- Sidney Priscilla Wood (March 22, 1867 - May 4, 1941)

Their relationships will be explored further in depth but, in brief:

- Mary and George were husband and wife
- Margaret and Sidney were Mary's sisters
- Mary is the sister of Jennie Woolworth (born Creighton), the wife of Frank Winfield Woolworth, the founder of the F. W. Woolworth Company. Jennie is interred with Frank in the Woolworth mausoleum, which the Hickey Mausoleum faces.
- It does not seem that Mary and George, or Margaret had children, thereby leaving no descendants. George's siblings passed away fairly young. Sidney had 3 children and has living descendants.

The mausoleum plot was purchased in 1922, after Mary Hickey's death. Correspondence between the Harrison Granite Company of New York, which designed the mausoleum according to documentation from the Avery archives, the mausoleum was designed by the Harrison Granite Company of New York City (image 2). Woodlawn Cemetery, and George Hickey, in July of 1923 confirmed the design and construction of the monument (image 3). The plans for the mausoleum appear to have been completed in December 1922, about two months after Mary's death. The plans were accepted by George on June 14, 1923, as seen in the blueprint's lower right side. It seems that the blueprints were accepted without any edits — no edited copies were found in the Avery archives. Notably, The Hickey plot is next to the Woolworth plot, where Frank W. Woolworth, his wife Jennie, and their daughter Barbara Hutton are interred. The door of the Hickey plot faces southwest, toward the entrance of the Woolworth mausoleum's southeast side. A pine tree and several other small bushes obscure most of the visibility between these two plots (image 4). Besides this planting, there is very little landscaping around the Hickey mausoleum. There is a large, round bush on the mausoleum's east side (if viewed from the front), and on its east, is another grave about the size of a coffin with two smaller bushes planted in front of it. The bush on the

east is not on the Hickey plot and likely belongs to the adjacent plot. This bush is likely not part of the Hickey plot because the blueprints for the mausoleum, as held in the Avery archives, do not include a landscaping plan.

The plot is a slightly irregular rectangle, measuring roughly 30 feet by 35 feet. The mausoleum is 9 feet from the north side of the plot. Its foundations are sized 13 feet by 15 feet, the shorter side is the entrance to the mausoleum and the side that faces the Woolworth mausoleum (image 1). The mausoleum exterior and interior floor are made entirely of Barre granite quarried by the company in Barre, Vermont.<sup>1</sup> Its interior (including the ceiling) is made of lightly veined marble, likely Vermont's Imperial Danby, based on appearances.<sup>2</sup> The door is likely bronze, judging by its green oxidation pattern and the standard use of brass in other mausoleum doors at Woodlawn. The mausoleum has a temple-front design and is bilaterally symmetrical lengthwise; the only exception to this symmetry are the windows on the east and west sides, which are different. At its front, the mausoleum has a dual pairing of square, rusticated granite pilasters, and granite Tuscan columns on either side of the door. The column shafts are made of polished granite, but the pilasters are not polished (image 5). The pilasters, like the columns, taper slightly toward the top. The pilasters are divided into five equally sized granite blocks. The bottom and top blocks of the pilasters are the same height as the middle three, including the capital and pilaster base within the height measurement.

The base of the columns are vertically flush with the mausoleum's smaller plinth while the pilasters are just slightly set back from the plinth edge. The capitals of the pilasters and columns, like their bases, do not touch; there is a horizontal distance between them. While the pilaster recedes into the left and right-hand walls, it appears to jut out from the front of the building because the facade is recessed. The front facade is, like the pilasters, horizontally separated into 5 equally sized granite blocks, the joints

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<sup>1</sup> Quarries and Beyond, "Vermont Marble Photos," accessed September 29, 2024, <https://quarriesandbeyond.org/states/vt/vermont-photos01a.html>; Quarries and Beyond, *Harrison Granite Co. Catalog of Clientele and Monuments*, 1918, accessed September 29, 2024, [https://quarriesandbeyond.org/articles\\_and\\_books/pdf/harrison\\_granite\\_co\\_catalog\\_of\\_clientele\\_and\\_monuments\\_1918.pdf](https://quarriesandbeyond.org/articles_and_books/pdf/harrison_granite_co_catalog_of_clientele_and_monuments_1918.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Material Order, "Material: Vermont Marble," accessed September 29, 2024, <https://materialorder.org/collection/materials/material/660dd759-1c38-4807-b705/>.

of which align with the joints of the front pilaster. The brass double door includes a clear glass panel through which one can see the crypts, covered by ornamental brass work. Lion head door knockers are placed between the top glass panel and the bottom panel, which contains an embossed Christian cross. The columns and pilasters support a granite architrave that spans the front length of the facade and which has 'GEORGE W HICKEY' in a serif font carved into it. The mausoleum's roof shares a visual similarity to a miniature monitor barn: it has a taller center section whose tallest point aligns with the door's mullion and two attached wings whose edges align with the architrave beneath it. The architrave's edges align with the edges of the pilaster beneath it, even though the pilaster's capital extends slightly out from underneath the architrave. The pilaster capital edges align with the cornice above the architrave. The cornice and architrave run along the edge of the entire mausoleum and are made of unpolished and polished granite, respectively.

While the front facade of the building is made of smooth granite, its sides are made of large slabs of rough-hewn granite (image 6). The rough slabs are the same height as the pilaster's slabs so the joints between the pilaster's smooth granite blocks are carried horizontally across by the rough slabs of the mausoleum on the building's sides and back. The difference in material texture is quite stark yet the height of the rough granite slabs follows a visually logical pattern and creates a subtle wraparound effect of the rough-hewn granite, making the mausoleum appear 'denser' than it actually is. The thickness of the granite slabs is smaller than one might expect; a clue is given when looking at the edge of the building. The granite slabs have been laid out in a pattern that appears to 'wrap' around the building. At the very top, beneath the architrave, the short edge of a rectangular rough slab is visible on the east and west sides of the building and its 'long side' is used in the back side of the building (image 7). The short edge of the slab is used in the top, middle, and bottom slab run, with the short edge of the slab making up part of the east and west sides. The back side of the mausoleum follows a similar pattern: the second and fourth slab runs include the short side of the rough slab from the east and west sides. The top, middle, and bottom slabs of the back side split perfectly down the middle of the mausoleum and their short sides, as described, constitute the east and west sides of the mausoleum. There are four bronze ventilation grates.



Two are located in the bottom slab run and two are located at the topmost slab run, all positioned dead center within the slabs. The grates at the bottom run touch the base plinth and the grates at the top touch the architrave. It appears that only the bottom grates have filtered water out. The roof at the backside of the mausoleum is identical to that of the front facade.

While thinner than they might appear, the marble cladding on the interior and the granite on the exterior are characteristic of mid-range mausoleums in this range of design and budget. The use of these materials gives the mausoleum a sense of durability and timelessness, despite its modesty. Granite is an extremely sturdy and water-resistant stone, so it seems appropriate for a structure meant to endure time and commemorate its burial. It's curious to see a temple-front design combined with the Christian typologies used here, even though this remains a typical mausoleum style at the time. The dual usage of Tuscan columns, the most unadorned of the column order, and pilasters further contributes to the unfussy appearance of this mausoleum. These columns are polished, unlike the pilasters, and seem to serve a primarily decorative function. The pilasters that frame the front offer the roof support. This possibly hints at the fact that the columns are more symbolic, perhaps representing the strength of the deceased's faith or moral character, while the pilasters are chosen for their structural capacity and to contrast with the polished columns. The pilasters give way to rough-hewn granite stone and offer a stark contrast to the front, slightly elevating the initial perception of the design's simplicity while still paying homage to traditional architectural forms. In short, the decorative elements, though restrained, highlight well the religious significance of the mausoleum's design and balances modesty with an underlying desire for spiritual grandeur, while connecting the Hickey's to the Woolworth family by position of the plot.

The primary feature of each side facade is the stained-glass windows, which have a clear safety glass panel in a bronze frame on their outsides (image 8). The windows are also the only other decoration within the mausoleum. When viewing it from the exterior, the window is not centered within the side facade of the mausoleum. However, if viewing the mausoleum from the interior, the window feels centered. This is because the crypts take up most of the interior space, so the window is centered only on the interior vantage point but is not centered from the perspective of the mausoleum, as evident from the

outside. Each crypt has two black rosettes around the name and the dates, similar to the one in the ceiling, inset into the nameplate. Each of the four crypts has carved lettering with the names and dates of the deceased. Mary Hickey is buried at the topmost crypt, and her crypt has written into it, above her name and an engraved cross “I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.” George’s crypt also has an engraved cross, but no carved phrase. The other two crypts also do not have any phrases carved into them. The deceased are not buried in any discernible chronological order.

At the exterior base of the window is a rectangular, rough-hewn granite slab with a smaller rectangle cut out of its long side, leaving two identical square nubs on the far right and left edges, which the window sill sits between. This slab is the only one in the building that has an angled cut, to shed water, which slopes down from the bottom of the window frame to the facade’s exterior. This is not the case in the mausoleum’s interior where a straight-cut marble sill juts out perpendicular to the window and the window has a rectangular marble sash. On the interior, the stained glass is extremely vibrant (image 9). Both windows have a dark blue trim on the bottom and a purple and green floral motif at the top, with a dove and lamb inside of a yellow ogee arch. The west-side window has a white dove with an olive branch above a red diamond pane that says ‘peace,’ and the east side has a white lamb holding an Episcopal banner above a red diamond pane that says ‘Agnus Dei.’ These windows are made of opalescent glass and are set in a lead metal. Only the lamb and dove are not made of opalescent glass and are painted on using a grisaille (gray painting) technique, according to a stained glass report of the mausoleum’s windows provided by Woodlawn.<sup>3</sup>

The stained-glass windows provide further insight into this. Unlike other mausoleums in Woodlawn Cemetery, the Hickey Mausoleum does not have Tiffany windows, as shown by a stained-glass report provided by Woodlawn. The windows are of a standard design and, as described above, are very similar in pattern and style to each other, especially around the glass border. The windows feature prominent Christian symbols of a dove with an olive branch and a lamb carrying an Episcopal banner.

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<sup>3</sup> Brianne Van Vorst, Drew Anderson, Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen, and Libby DeRosa, Woodlawn Cemetery Stained Glass Condition Assessment, report, December 13, 2021, 3.

The dove is a symbol of peace and hope and is described as such in the story of Noah's Ark in the Bible. Noah sends out a dove to see whether the great flood has ended. The first time, it returns, because the water has not receded. The second time, Noah "again sent out the dove from the ark. When the dove returned to him in the evening, there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf! Then Noah knew that the water had receded from the earth."<sup>4</sup> Within this context, the dove likely represents a wish for spiritual peace for the dead in the afterlife and shows the reunification of the dead with God in heaven, as Noah was united with the land after the flood. The lamb stands above the phrase 'Agnus Dei,' which means 'Lamb of God.'<sup>5</sup> The lamb symbolizes Jesus and his sacrifice of death to free humanity from their sin. In John 1:29, "John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"<sup>6</sup> The Agnus Dei chant typically comes between the Lord's Prayer and the Communion and in Anglican and Lutheran liturgies; Agnus Dei has been kept "in their eucharistic rites," especially relevant here.<sup>7</sup> The bronze door includes a cross on the bottom panels and a lion's head knocker (image 10). The lion head is likely a reference to Genesis, where the lion refers to the strength and the maintenance of Judah's kingdom.<sup>8</sup> This imagery in the stained glass, in the door, and the phrase carved into Mary's mausoleum reinforces the mausoleum's overarching themes of unification with God. Taken together, the dove and lamb likely depict the hope for redemption and the promise of peace for the soul.

In design, this is a modest and compact mausoleum. It's simple, unfussy, and pious. The flourishes — stained glass, lion head knockers, the crosses on the door— are all religious in theme and typical for most mausoleums from this era. As discussed above, the mausoleum's simplicity is likely a matter of budget and timing, not a question of design aesthetics.

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<sup>4</sup> MIT, "Genesis 8:11 (NIV)," accessed September 29, 2024, [https://web.mit.edu/jywang/www/cef/Bible/NIV/NIV\\_Bible/GEN+8.html#:~:text=Then%20he%20sent%20out%20a.to%20himself%20in%20the%20ark.](https://web.mit.edu/jywang/www/cef/Bible/NIV/NIV_Bible/GEN+8.html#:~:text=Then%20he%20sent%20out%20a.to%20himself%20in%20the%20ark.)

<sup>5</sup> Britannica, "Agnus Dei," accessed September 29, 2024, [https://www.britannica.com/topic/Agnus-Dei-liturgical-chant.](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Agnus-Dei-liturgical-chant)

<sup>6</sup> Bible Gateway, "John 1:29 (NIV)," accessed September 29, 2024, [https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201%3A29&version=NIV.](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John%201%3A29&version=NIV)

<sup>7</sup> Britannica, "Agnus Dei," accessed September 29, 2024, [https://www.britannica.com/topic/Agnus-Dei-liturgical-chant.](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Agnus-Dei-liturgical-chant)

<sup>8</sup> MIT, "Genesis 8:11 (NIV)," accessed September 29, 2024, [https://web.mit.edu/jywang/www/cef/Bible/NIV/NIV\\_Bible/GEN+8.html#:~:text=Then%20he%20sent%20out%20a.to%20himself%20in%20the%20ark.](https://web.mit.edu/jywang/www/cef/Bible/NIV/NIV_Bible/GEN+8.html#:~:text=Then%20he%20sent%20out%20a.to%20himself%20in%20the%20ark.)

## **CURRENT CONDITIONS**

At the time of writing this report, the mausoleum has several clearly visible problems. The most apparent of these are a black crust and the green biological growth around the two base plinths, especially prominent on the left, right, and back sides of the mausoleum and the roof. The black crust is likely gypsum (image 11). Gypsum crusting is easily removable by water. The back side of the mausoleum has water drainage vents. The vents on top of the second base plinth do not have any black scaling around them and reveal the original color of the granite underneath, showing that the gypsum has been washed away. Biological growth is typically identifiable as green or black growth. As the black crust is likely gypsum, there is green growth visible all around the base plinths of the mausoleum, especially on the backside. There is more biological growth visible in green along the roof line and what appears to be lichen (image 12). The lichen is not found elsewhere on the mausoleum, but there is considerable biological growth in the interior along the bottom of Sidney Wood's crypt and by the east side window (image 13). Other issues include a hardened lump of tree sap between the column and the rusticated pilaster on the building's right-hand side, likely from the pine tree planted between it and the Woolworth mausoleum. Additionally, water damage is visible on the interior of the mausoleum where it has stained the marble interiors, especially along the cladding joints and the interior roof. This water staining is most visible above the doorway, along the ceiling joints, and on the crypts where water seems to have run repeatedly, lightening the marble. Further, many cobwebs and spider eggs were found in the door hinges. At the time of visiting, there were three abandoned containers — a green metal vase, a white ceramic bowl, and a crystal vase — that were likely used to hold flowers. Lastly, while the windows are in fair condition, the caulking around the window exterior is beginning to peel away from the glass frame.

## **FAMILY HISTORY AND ANALYSIS**

Census records from 1910 and after list George, Mary, and Margaret Hickey as all living together in apartment 12b at 209 Jefferson Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn (image 14) and paying a modest rent. This building was owned by Frank Woolworth and was purchased by him in 1886, allegedly to be closer to his supplies before opening the first Woolworth store in Brooklyn, which opened on Fulton



Street, in 1895.<sup>9</sup> This brownstone likely remained owned by Woolworth or his family, even after he moved to the Upper East Side in 1901.<sup>10</sup> It appears that the Brooklyn house was used by the Woolworths to

“...entertain his business associates there, bringing them together, at least once a year, for what he termed a “Grand Five and Ten Reunion.” These reunions lasted two or three days and were jolly affairs, generally culminating in a picnic or a seashore excursion, with plenty of food and liquid refreshment. The first “reunion” would be held just a month-and-a-half after buying No. 209 and would be held annually through the early 1890s.”<sup>11</sup>

Mary and George were married on February 25, 1908. Their marriage license was issued in Brooklyn, New York City.<sup>12</sup> Mary’s death was written about in the *Watertown Daily Times*. Published September 22, 1922, the column reads “SISTER OF MRS. WOOLWORTH DIES.”<sup>13</sup> Mrs. Woolworth refers to Jennie Woolworth, born Creighton. Mary Creighton was born in Picton, Ontario, and came to New York when she was a young girl. She was recorded in the 1861 census, when she was 4 years old, under Thomas Creighton’s household, but there was no traceable birth certificate for Mary.<sup>14</sup> Her death record lists her birthplace as Canada, her father as Thomas Creighton, and her mother as Adelia Taylor Creighton.<sup>15</sup> Adelia Taylor’s grave is in Picton, Prince Edward County Municipality, Ontario, Canada; she died in 1888 and Thomas died in 1882.<sup>16</sup> No sources, including Ancestry, list that Jennie was Mary’s

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<sup>9</sup> Brownstoner, “Building of the Day: 408-416 Fulton Street,” accessed September 29, 2024, <https://www.brownstoner.com/architecture/building-of-the-day-408-416-fulton-street/>.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Brownstone Detectives, “Jefferson Avenue,” accessed September 29, 2024, <https://www.brownstonedetectives.com/tag/jefferson-avenue/>.

<sup>12</sup> Ancestry.com, *New York, New York, U.S., Extracted Marriage Index, 1866–1937*. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014. Marriage certificate for George W. Hickey and Mary Creighton, 1908. Accessed September 29, 2024. [https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/5702849:61406?tid=&pid=&queryid=cb35903f-665f-4584-97e1-5aad1af9e60a&\\_phsrc=tUd26&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/5702849:61406?tid=&pid=&queryid=cb35903f-665f-4584-97e1-5aad1af9e60a&_phsrc=tUd26&_phstart=successSource).

<sup>13</sup> “Sister of Mrs. Woolworth Dies,” *Watertown Daily Times*, September 23, 1922, <https://shorturl.at/L11dH>.

<sup>14</sup> Library and Archives Canada, *Census of Canada, 1861 (Canada East, Canada West, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, and Nova Scotia)*. “Creighton, Mary Ann C, Age 4.” Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://recherche-collection-search.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/home/record?idnumber=45296427&app=census>.

<sup>15</sup> Ancestry.com, *New Hampshire, U.S., Death and Burial Records Index, 1654–1949*. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011. Birth certificate for Mary Ann Hickey, 1922, Bethlehem, Grafton, New Hampshire. Accessed September 29, 2024. [https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/427406:2555?tid=&pid=&queryid=89e45ff2-cebf-47ef-b1b5-0a6e755f001f&\\_phsrc=tUd295&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/427406:2555?tid=&pid=&queryid=89e45ff2-cebf-47ef-b1b5-0a6e755f001f&_phsrc=tUd295&_phstart=successSource).

<sup>16</sup> Find a Grave, “Adelia Creighton Memorial,” accessed September 29, 2024, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/190932014/adelia-creighton>.

sister but these sources also do not include any of Jennie's and Mary's other siblings as well. However, it's clear in the 1861 census report that the Creighton family had additional children who are not listed elsewhere as Jennie's siblings. As Mary's birth certificate was unattainable, others were also non-searchable. However, in the book *Five and Ten, The Fabulous Life of F. W. Woolworth* by John Winkler, Winkler writes that Jennie came to live in Watertown, New York, before meeting her future husband while he was a clerk in Watertown at a dry goods store,<sup>17</sup> the same place where her sister's obituary was published. She was "often homesick for her eight younger brothers and sisters" who lived "across the border in Picton."<sup>18</sup>

Mary, later in life, "entered the Woolworth company and went to Brooklyn."<sup>19</sup> Winkler writes that "as a favorite sister-in-law of Woolworth," Mary became the manager of the 18th Woolworth store, which opened in Poughkeepsie, NY in 1888.<sup>20</sup> In Mary's obituary, it's stated that she was survived by two sisters "Mrs. Wood of Brooklyn and Miss Margaret Creighton of the same place; and several brothers."<sup>21</sup> The funeral services were held in Sidney's home in Brooklyn; when Sidney passed, the Brooklyn Eagle published a short column noting that funeral services for her were to be held at her home, "209 Jefferson Avenue."<sup>22</sup> While Mary lived in Brooklyn, she died in her summer home in Bethlehem, New Hampshire. Her death record indicates the cause of death as 'Angina Pectoris,' a type of chest pain "caused by reduced blood flow to the heart," which can result in a heart attack.<sup>23</sup>

George Hickey's birth certificate was not accessible — but he is listed in the 1880 US Census

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<sup>17</sup> Eva Glasser, "From Farms To Mansion," *New York Times*, May 8, 1977, <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1977/05/08/75077626.html>.

<sup>18</sup> John K. Winkler, *Five and Ten: The Fabulous Life of F.W. Woolworth* (Mansfield, Centre, CT: Martino Publishing, 2014), 34.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid, 73.

<sup>21</sup> Ancestry.com, *New York, New York, U.S., Marriage License Indexes, 1907–2018*. Lehi, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2017. Marriage license for George W. Hickey and Mary A. Creighton, February 25, 1908, Brooklyn, New York City, New York, license no. 1895. Accessed September 29, 2024. [https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/5702849:61406?tid=&pid=&queryid=cb35903f-665f-4584-97e1-5aad1af9e60a&\\_phsrc=tUd26&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/5702849:61406?tid=&pid=&queryid=cb35903f-665f-4584-97e1-5aad1af9e60a&_phsrc=tUd26&_phstart=successSource).

<sup>22</sup> "WOOD-SIDNEY P.," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, May 9, 1941, <https://bklyn.newspapers.com/image/685908362/?match=1&terms=sidney%20wood&article=ba521d68-360e-488f-b071-6da6c6a521c3>.

<sup>23</sup> Mayo Clinic, "Angina Symptoms and Causes," accessed September 29, 2024, <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/angina/symptoms-causes/syc-20369373>.

along with two siblings (Fred and Julia), his mother Ellen, and his father John. He was 17 at the time of the census and his profession was listed as ‘telegraph printer.’<sup>24</sup> His father’s profession was furnaceman — he is listed under the same profession in the 1880 census as in the 1863 directory for Watertown, New York.<sup>25</sup> George was born in Watertown, so it is likely that Mary and George met in Watertown — his family already residing there, and she coming with her sister — and then moved to Poughkeepsie after 1880, likely around 1887 or 1888 for the opening of the Woolworth store there, then Manhattan, and then Brooklyn. The 1910, 1915, and 1920 US State Census of New York list George, Mary, and Margaret all living together in apartment 12b at 209 Jefferson Avenue in Brooklyn (Kings County). The 1905 US Census lists ‘Mrs. George Hickey’ residing with George in Manhattan, though no address was given here.<sup>26</sup> In the 1910 census, George was listed as being a life insurance agent, though in the 1915 census, he was listed as being an ‘insurance agent’ with Mary and Margaret both doing ‘housework.’<sup>27</sup> Margaret’s last name is spelled ‘Craighton’ on the 1915 census, not ‘Creighton,’ though she is listed as George’s sister-in-law. This mistake is not repeated on the 1910 or 1920 census form. The 1920 Federal census also lists them as living together at the same address, all with the same occupation as in the 1915 census, and

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<sup>24</sup> Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, *1880 United States Federal Census*. Lehi, UT: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 2010. Census entry for George Hickey, Carthage, Jefferson, New York, enumeration district 152, page 309b. Accessed September 29, 2024.

<https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/1909989%3A6742>.

<sup>25</sup> Ancestry.com, *U.S. City Directories, 1822–1995*. Lehi, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011. *Boyd’s Directory of Watertown, North Watertown and Juhelville, 1863–64*, s.v. “Washington Hickey,” p. 99. Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/1398429138%3A2469>.

<sup>26</sup> Ancestry.com, *New York, U.S., State Census, 1905*. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014. Census entry for Mrs. George Hickey, Manhattan, New York, election district A.D. 27, E.D. 10, page 24. Accessed September 29, 2024.

[https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/7304569:7364?tid=&pid=&queryid=a839103a-7072-4c40-a716-2c8e41974b3e&\\_phsrc=tUd204&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/7304569:7364?tid=&pid=&queryid=a839103a-7072-4c40-a716-2c8e41974b3e&_phsrc=tUd204&_phstart=successSource).

<sup>27</sup> Ancestry.com, *New York, U.S., State Census, 1915*. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012. Census entry for George W. Hickey, Kings County, New York, election district 09, assembly district 17, page 31. Accessed September 29, 2024.

[https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/11088973:2703?tid=&pid=&queryid=03e31080-4ab3-4828-97a6-12d1ff55add9&\\_phsrc=tUd78&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/11088973:2703?tid=&pid=&queryid=03e31080-4ab3-4828-97a6-12d1ff55add9&_phsrc=tUd78&_phstart=successSource).

that the home was rented.<sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> As mentioned earlier, after Mary died in 1922, George had her estate evaluated. Following Mary's death and the completion of the mausoleum, George began to travel. Arriving Passenger and Crew lists indicate that George traveled to Puerto Rico (1924),<sup>30</sup> England (1925),<sup>31</sup> Canada (1925)<sup>32</sup>, Florida (1927, 1934, 1936),<sup>33</sup> Hawaii (1927)<sup>34</sup>, Rio de Janeiro (1928),<sup>35</sup> Gibraltar (1929),<sup>36</sup> Bermuda (1928),<sup>37</sup> Germany (1930),<sup>38</sup> went back to New York in 1932 then California

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<sup>28</sup> Ancestry.com, *1920 United States Federal Census*. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. Census entry for George W. Hickey, Brooklyn Assembly District 17, Kings, New York, enumeration district 1066, page 9B. Accessed September 29, 2024.

[https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/20799051:6061?tid=&pid=&queryid=03e31080-4ab3-4828-97a6-12d1ff55add9&\\_phsrc=tUd78&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/20799051:6061?tid=&pid=&queryid=03e31080-4ab3-4828-97a6-12d1ff55add9&_phsrc=tUd78&_phstart=successSource).

<sup>29</sup> The 1910 census also lists 'Roy L Creighton,' as living with the family. He is listed as George's nephew, but it is unclear whose child he is. His occupation was listed as store manager in 1910 and as an 'executive' in 1930, though his name was misspelled as 'Ray.'

<sup>30</sup> Ancestry.com, *New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820–1957*. Lehi, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. *Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1897–1957*, microfilm serial T715, Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, record group 85. Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://shorturl.at/vDHde>.

<sup>31</sup> Ancestry.com, *UK and Ireland, Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878–1960*. Lehi, UT: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2008. *Inwards Passenger Lists, Class BT26, piece 790, item 28*. Data imaged from The National Archives, Kew, Surrey, England. Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://shorturl.at/kXQiz>.

<sup>32</sup> Ancestry.com, *U.S., Border Crossings from Canada to U.S., 1895–1960*. Lehi, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. *Manifests of Passengers Arriving at St. Albans, Vermont, District Through Canadian Pacific and Atlantic Ports, 1895–1954*, series M1464, roll 517. Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, record group 85. Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://shorturl.at/5h3Zi>.

<sup>33</sup> Ancestry.com, *Florida, U.S., Arriving and Departing Passenger and Crew Lists, 1898–1963*. Lehi, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2006. *U.S. Citizen Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at Tampa, Florida*. Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, record group 85, NAI no. 2953561. Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://shorturl.at/F0CB5>.

<sup>34</sup> Ancestry.com, *Honolulu, Hawaii, U.S., Arriving and Departing Passenger and Crew Lists, 1900–1959*. Lehi, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2009. *Passenger Lists of Vessels Departing from Honolulu, Hawaii, Compiled 06/1900–11/1954*. Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, record group 85, NAI no. A3510. Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/yhr4cy6n>.

<sup>35</sup> Ancestry.com, *New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820–1957*. Lehi, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. *Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1897–1957*, microfilm serial T715. Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, record group 85. Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/yckdrj54>.

<sup>36</sup> Ancestry.com, *New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820–1957*. Lehi, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. *Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1897–1957*, microfilm serial T715. Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, record group 85. Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/3ew6hvdX>.

<sup>37</sup> Ancestry.com, *New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820–1957*. Lehi, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. *Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1897–1957*, microfilm serial T715. Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, record group 85. Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/bddwxeV5>.

<sup>38</sup> Ancestry.com, *New York, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists (including Castle Garden and Ellis Island), 1820–1957*. Lehi, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010. *Passenger and Crew Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, New York, 1897–1957*, microfilm serial T715. Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, record group 85. Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/yc69h9fe>.



(1927, 1932).<sup>39</sup> He may have traveled for his job as an insurance agent. The 1930 US Census does not show that George stayed in the same house, likely because he was traveling during this time.

After Mary died in 1922, George had her estate evaluated. A column from the October 1, 1923 copy of the *Brooklyn Eagle* lists the valuation of Mary Hickey's estate, with George listed as the 'administrator,' at \$300,000.<sup>40</sup> In today's money, this is about \$5.5 million.<sup>41</sup> Where this estate came from is entirely unclear — no wills, evaluations, etc. were found. And, Mary was always listed as a housewife in Census records. One can only offer a hypothesis as to where this estate came from, which is most likely from the Woolworth family. This connection to the Woolworth's is likely what the Hickey's used to acquire their country home in Bethlehem, N.H., which George used to travel and to pay for the construction of the mausoleum at Woodlawn, including buying the plot of land next to the Woolworth mausoleum. Further — it seems unusual for a middle-class family living in Brooklyn to be buried in the Bronx, at Woodlawn. It would have been more expected for the Hickey's to be buried in Greenwood cemetery. However, the close proximity of the mausoleums at Woodlawn along with their shared history in Watertown, NY, and in Brooklyn suggests that the families were very well-connected to each other, in a way that other sources have not realized.

A 1940s census record was found for a George W. Hickey living in Manhattan at West 177 Street, but it's unclear whether it's the same person — all other facts except for the date of birth match up.<sup>42</sup> This building still stands today and is a modest, pre-war, 5-story apartment building. The others listed on this census document are lodgers and a husband and wife, so it does not feel like a stretch to imagine that after traveling in the 30s and 40s, George rented a room or an apartment in Manhattan, especially as the listed

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<sup>39</sup> Ancestry.com, *California, U.S., Arriving Passenger and Crew Lists, 1882–1959*. Lehi, UT: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2008. *Lists of Passengers Who Arrived at San Pedro/Los Angeles, California, 1920–1949, in Transit to Their Final Destinations*. Records of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, record group 85, NAI no. 4492686. Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://tinyurl.com/2s3pu4nv>.

<sup>40</sup> "Assesment of Estates," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, October 1, 1923, <https://shorturl.at/hITdD>.

<sup>41</sup> "Inflation Rate between 1923-2024: Inflation Calculator," \$300,000 in 1923 → 2024 | Inflation Calculator, accessed September 29, 2024, <https://www.officialdata.org/us/inflation/1923?amount=300000>.

<sup>42</sup> Ancestry.com, *1940 United States Federal Census*. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012. Census entry for George Hickey, New York, New York, enumeration district 31-2089, page 18B. Accessed September 29, 2024. [https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/11428453:2442?tid=&pid=&queryid=d114eb31-6d94-4d33-8a8a-8a2aaf241c1f&\\_phsrc=tUd187&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/11428453:2442?tid=&pid=&queryid=d114eb31-6d94-4d33-8a8a-8a2aaf241c1f&_phsrc=tUd187&_phstart=successSource).

profession was ‘Wage or salary worker in private work.’<sup>43</sup> The apartment was not in an ‘auspicious’ area, so the working hypothesis here is that he had a small fall from grace before inheriting his wife’s estate and using it to buy the burial plot, travel, and spend his winters in Florida. As a widower with no children, he also would not have needed much. George W. Hickey died in New Jersey on October 6, 1953, at the home of his niece Mrs. Godfrey M. Meyer of a heart attack.<sup>44</sup> His obituary was published by Herald News of Jersey and noted that he had been born in Watertown and was a “retired special agent for the Equitable Life Assurance Society” and was also a member of the “St. Petersburg Elks Lodge,” in Florida, where he spent his winters.<sup>45</sup> The obituary notes that he had no children and was survived by his sister Julie and his niece, Ella.<sup>46</sup> That he spent his winters in Florida is confirmed by both travel and immigration records discussed earlier and a 1928 note from George to Woodlawn cemetery with a letterhead from the ‘Suwannee Hotel’ in St. Petersburg, Florida, found in the Avery archives (image 15).

Sidney, Mary’s sister, died in Akron, Ohio according to the Department of Health’s official records.<sup>47</sup> Sidney lived in Brooklyn and had three children: Lottie Tripp, Mable Krulder, and Frank Wood.<sup>48</sup> Sidney and her three children were listed as living together in the 1915 Census as well. At this point, Frank’s occupation was listed as “salesman.”<sup>49</sup> Mable Christina Wood married Charles Krulder in 1927, according to the Brooklyn marriage registry. They had one daughter, Audrey Priscilla Krulder

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<sup>43</sup> To clear up any future confusion: there is a different George W. Hickey listed as living in Jamaica, Queens and working as a real estate broker in the 1940s. However, they are different people: this Hickey was born in 1912 and posted many advertisements in the Brooklyn Eagle, where our George W. Hickey was also written about, but they are not the same. It’s unclear what Hickey did professionally after his wife’s passing.

<sup>44</sup> Ancestry.com, *New Jersey, U.S., Death Index, 1848–1878, 1901–2017*. Lehi, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016. *New Jersey Death Indexes, 1904–2000*, entry for George W. Hickey. New Jersey State Archives. Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/3123304:61260>.

<sup>45</sup> “George W. Hickey, Uncle of Mrs. Godfrey M. Meyer,” *The Herald News*, October 7, 1953, <https://www.newspapers.com/article/the-herald-news-obituary-for-george-w-h/155882241/spapers.com/article/the-herald-news-obituary-for-george-w-h/155882241/>.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Ancestry.com and Ohio Department of Health, *Ohio, U.S., Death Records, 1908–1932, 1938–2022*. Lehi, UT: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2010. *Ohio Deaths, 1908–1932, 1938–1944, and 1958–2007*, entry for Sidney P. Wood. Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/5314114:5763>.

<sup>48</sup> “Wood- Sidney P,” *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, May 9, 1941, <https://bklyn.newspapers.com/image/685908362/?match=1&terms=sidney%20wood&article=ba521d68-360e-488f-b071-6da6c6a521c3>.

<sup>49</sup> Ancestry.com, *New York, U.S., State Census, 1915*. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012. Census entry for Sidney P. Wood, Kings County, New York, election district 30, assembly district 17, page 25. Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/12840512%3A2703>.

Larry; she was born in Brooklyn, NY, on May 4, 1930, and died in 2013 in South Carolina.<sup>50</sup> In 1940, the census listed Mable and Charles and their daughter, Audrey, as living with Sidney.<sup>51</sup> The 1940 Federal Census also lists Margaret as living with her sister, Sidney, in Brooklyn. It appears that Margaret never married or had children and likely went to live with her sister after George began to travel. As reported in the Brooklyn Eagle, Charles A. Krulder died in 1944 and was, like Sidney, “formerly of 209 Jefferson Avenue, Brooklyn.”<sup>52</sup> Audrey married Frank Larry in October 1972.<sup>53</sup> According to her obituary, “she is survived by her son, John Gearst (Sue) of Lyman; three daughters, Laura Harper (Doug) of New York, NY, Debra Monges of Lyman, and Gail Standage (Rob) of Moore.”<sup>54</sup>

Audrey’s children are all likely alive. Following an online search, Gail still lives in Moore, South Carolina, and works as an accountant, according to her LinkedIn profile. Laura’s Husband, Douglas Chester Harper, died in 2021 and his funeral services were held in Virginia.<sup>55</sup> John’s Facebook profile states that he is married to Sue and they reside in South Carolina.

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<sup>50</sup> “Audrey P. Larry,” *Spartanburg Herald Journal*, April 9, 2013, <https://www.goupstate.com/story/news/2013/04/09/audrey-p-larry/30024145007/>.

<sup>51</sup> Ancestry.com, *1940 United States Federal Census*. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012. Census entry for Margaret Creighton, Kings County, New York, enumeration district 24-1970, page 13B. Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/9121888:2442>.

<sup>52</sup> “Krulder,” *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, March 28, 1944, <https://www.newspapers.com/image/52698227?article=ac68cd6b-4317-49bf-9d15-1e00bffeca5d&focus=0.15249772.0.2943611.0.2662449.0.33519197&xid=3355>.

<sup>53</sup> Ancestry.com, *New Jersey, U.S., Marriage Index, 1901–2016*. Lehi, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2016. Marriage Indexes, entry for Audrey P. Krulder and Frank Larry, 1972. New Jersey State Archives. Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com/discoveryui-content/view/1084397177:61253>.

<sup>54</sup> “Audrey P. Larry,” *Spartanburg Herald Journal*, April 9, 2013, <https://www.goupstate.com/story/news/2013/04/09/audrey-p-larry/30024145007/>.

<sup>55</sup> “Obituary for Douglas Chester Harper at McCutcheon and Jones Funeral Home,” *Obituary, Douglas Chester Harper*. Accessed September 29, 2024. <https://www.mccutcheonandjonesfh.com/obituary/douglas-harper>.

IMAGES

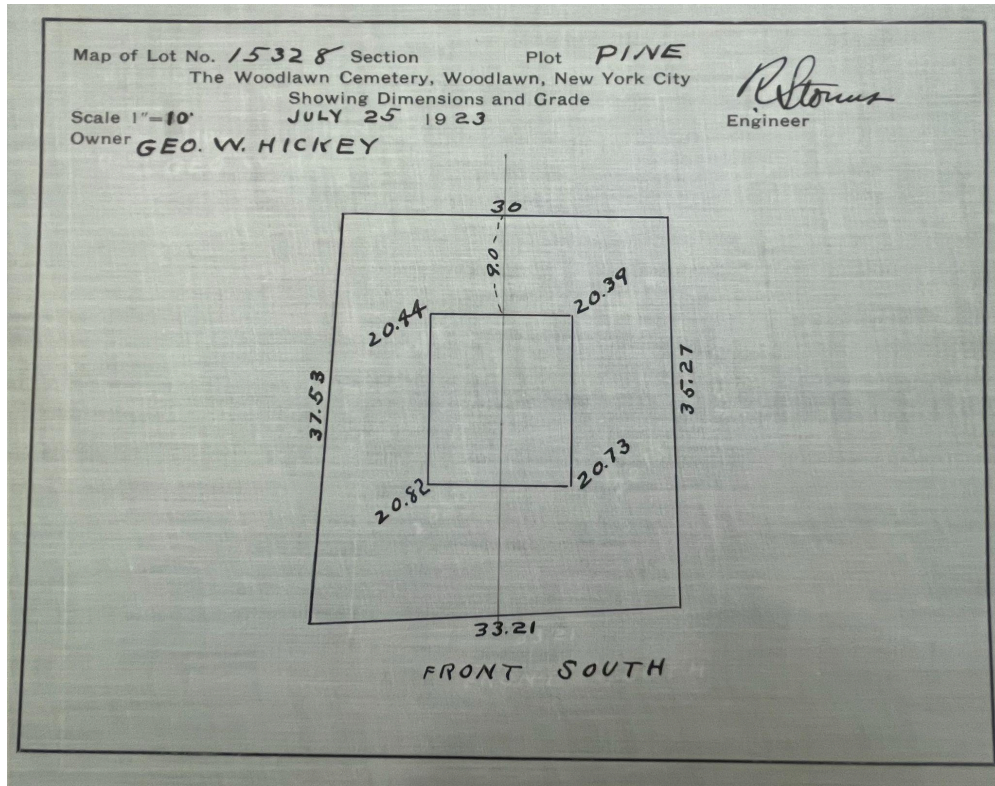


Image 1: "Hickey plot." Major Monuments Folder, Woodlawn Cemetery Archive, Avery Architecture Library Columbia University.

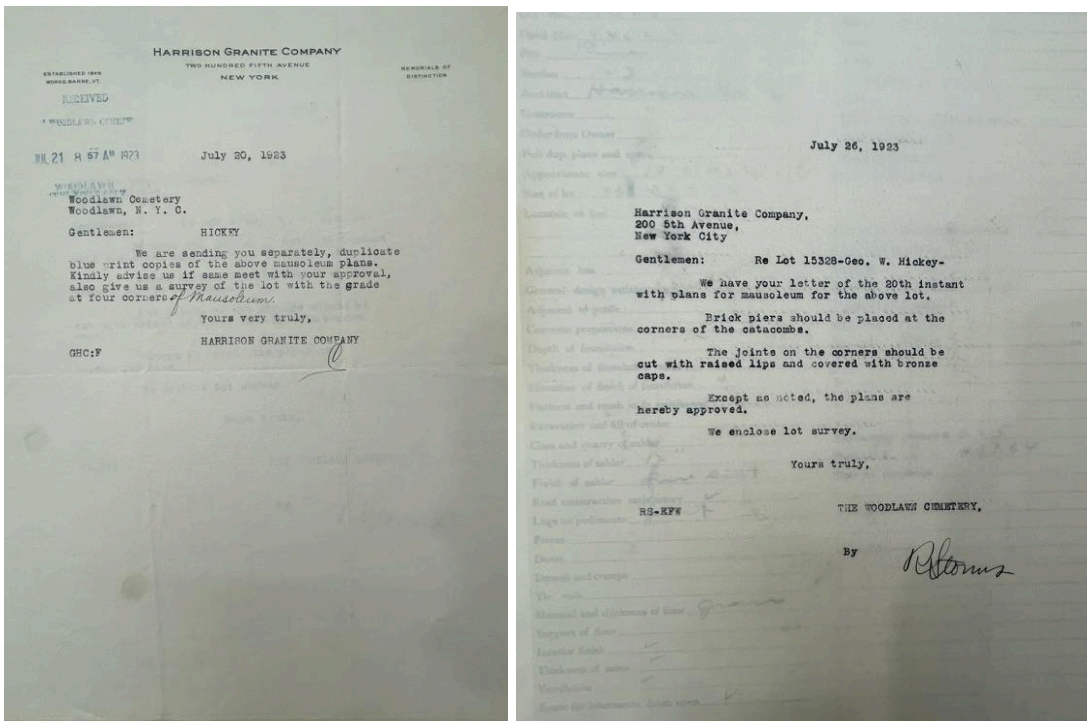
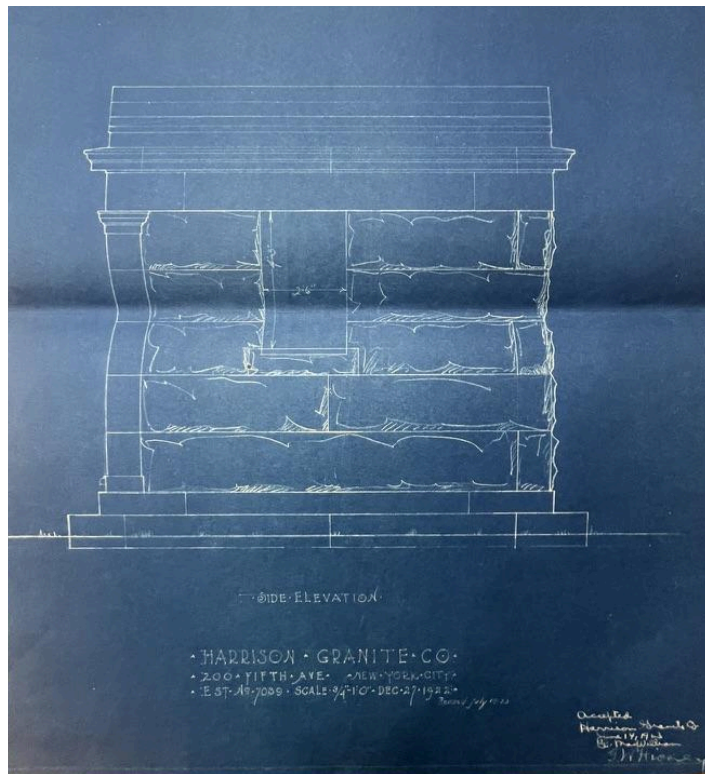


Image 2: "Correspondence between Woodlawn Cemetery and Harrison Granite," Correspondence Folder, Woodlawn Cemetery Archive, Avery Architecture Library Columbia University.





**Image 3:** “Side Elevation by Harrison Granite.” Major Monuments Folder, Woodlawn Cemetery Archive, Avery Architecture Library Columbia University.



**Image 4:** Elizabeth Kostina, *Hickey Back and Side Elevation*, 2024.





**Image 5:** Elizabeth Kostina, *Hickey Front Elevation*, 2024.



**Image 6:** Elizabeth Kostina, *Hickey Front and Side Elevation*, 2024.





**Image 7:** Elizabeth Kostina, *Hickey Back Elevation*, 2024.



**Image 8:** Elizabeth Kostina, *Hickey Side Elevation*, 2024.





**Image 9:** Elizabeth Kostina, *Hickey Stained Glass Windows*, 2024.



**Image 10:** Elizabeth Kostina, *Hickey Mausoleum Brass Door*, 2024.





**Image 11:** Elizabeth Kostina, *Gypsum and biological growth on Hickey Mausoleum's back side*, 2024.



**Image 12:** Elizabeth Kostina, *Lichen and gypsum crust around roof joint*, 2024.

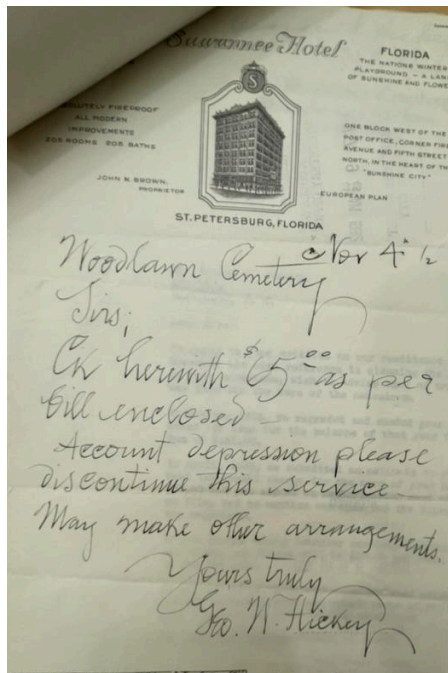




**Image 13:** Elizabeth Kostina, *Hickey Mausoleum Crypts*, 2024.



**Image 14:** No. 209 Jefferson Ave, ca. 1940. January 5, 2023. Brownstone Detectives.  
<https://www.brownstonedetectives.com/woolworths-bedstuy-backyard-1889/>.



**Image 15:** “Correspondence between Woodlawn Cemetery and George W. Hickey,” Correspondence Folder, Woodlawn Cemetery Archive, Avery Architecture Library Columbia University.

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